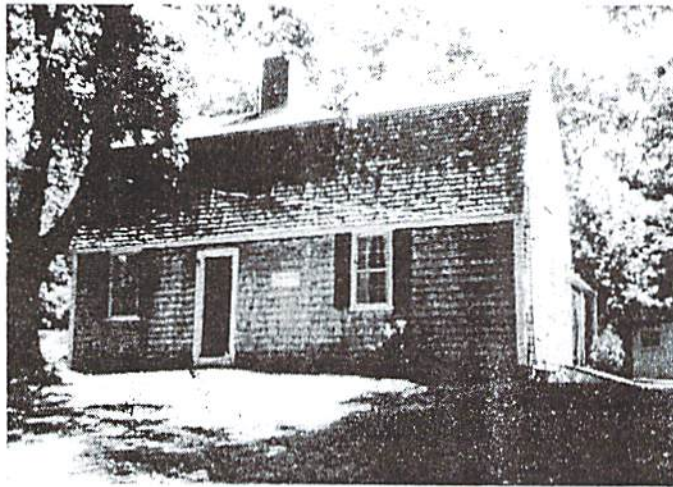
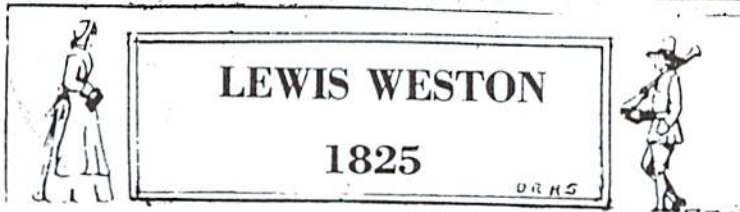


HISTORICAL HOUSES - NAMED, 4-2

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There was once a farm that went from Alden St. up to St. George St., all along the east side of Tremont St. For a long time a Southworth owned it but it was a later owner, William Winsor, who began to sell off small lots. In 1825 he sold about an acre off the north west corner to Lewis Weston for only \$10, a low price even then.

Lewis Weston was a housewright, a carpenter, so he probably built the house himself. It is a small gambrel roofed house, nicely proportioned and designed but so small one can easily believe Lewis Weston built it almost by himself. Perhaps he even designed it for it has so many individual features that it seems it must have been someone's very personal preference.

The gambrel roof house, while common in earlier times, was not favored in 1825. Capes for people of modest means and square two story houses for the wealthier were the houses generally built around 1800, but this house shows a pleasing appearance that must have been especially planned. All through it one gets the feeling it is a very special house, probably someone's dream-house.

At a time when most houses, large or small, followed a common plan around the central chimney, this house has the two rooms either side of the front door but there is no front stairway, just an entry so shallow that the open door scrapes the wall, a surprisingly close arrangement that makes it necessary to do considerable maneuvering to stand aside and close the door before you go into what was once the kitchen.

The house is only one room deep, a parlor to the north and a kitchen to the south with a buttry and small bedroom that are now part of the old kitchen. There are several original doors, thin and pegged, some fine wide wainscoting, and two fireplaces. There is a small ell on the rear of the main two rooms, really a "T" since it is in the center of the back wall, and unlike most such parts, seems to be the same age and construction as the front, not a moved on part.

The stairway is in the back of the chimney, just opposite to the usual place, but it is a charming stairway with a small turn at the bottom and a two way turn at the top to go to the two chambers. And those chambers because of the gambrel roof are surprisingly roomy for such a small four room house.

Lewis Weston put his house up on the knoll, above the street, nearly hidden by trees and barely seen from the road -- a pity for it is a pretty little house.

There was a ten year period after Lewis Weston's time when James T. and Nathaniel Ford, merchants, owned it, when they rented it to some of the men who

worked in the Ford Store in Millbrook. Tenants did nothing to the property and the Fords lost \$50 when they sold for \$300. They had paid Lewis Weston \$350. Then the house went to family occupant owners, each staying 20 to 30 years, making few changes and apparently liking the intimate charm of the place.

The modern utilities necessary for today's living are hardly visible and the small gambrel looks just like the little old house it really is. Elizabeth Williams now owns the house by the side of the road that Lewis Weston built in 1825.

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